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historical method, obey only the high method of their own hearts—what may a man not gain of courage and confidence, in the right way of politics? There is more of a nation's politics to be got out of its poetry than out of all of its systematic writers upon public affairs and constitutions. Epics are better mirrors of manners than chronicles; dramas often may let you into the secrets of statutes. [Compare Emerson's remark: "Wisdom is not to be found in metaphysics, but in the sonnet or the play."] It is not knowledge that moves the world, but ideals, convictions, the opinions or fancies that have been held or followed. Their primal relations are not independent of their way of living, and their way of thinking is the mirror of their way of living."

Dr. Merriam is Professor of Political Science in the University of Chicago. He agrees with Wilson that Lincoln was the "supreme American".

T. P. B.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE PLEBISCITE IN THE DETERMINATION OF SOVEREIGNTY. By Johannes Mattern. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1920. Pp. ix, 214.

This timely monograph is one of the well-known Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science.

The purpose of the book is thus succinctly stated in the preface:—

"The present study aims to estimate the evolutionary momentum of the doctrine actually applied, in so far as it is traceable through the mass of alleged or genuine precedents of ancient, feudal, and modern times, and to consider the theoretical and practical aspects of the subject from the point of view of international and constitutional law in the light of more recent development."

The author, who is assistant librarian at Johns Hopkins, records the publication of Miss Wambaugh's *Monograph on Plebiscites* by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace after the present article had gone to press. Miss Wambaugh's "more than a thousand pages contain an historical summary, a detailed account of the plebiscites recorded, and a collection of documents comprising more than two-thirds of the volume", and

cover the Plebiscite in the French Revolution, in Italy, and the period from the nineteenth century to the beginning of the World War.

The book has a bibliography and an index.

T. P. B.

THE CONNECTICUT WITS AND OTHER ESSAYS. By Henry Augustin Beers. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1920. Pp. 262.

The Professor of English Literature, Emeritus, at Yale, writes here as always with a wise instinct and gracious style. While it is difficult to approve of several of his opinions and deductions, yet we find these set down with such sincerity and originality as half to disarm opposition.

Professor Beers has included in this little volume eleven essays and lectures, among the best of which are *The Connecticut Wits*, *Emerson's Journals*, *The Art of Letter Writing*, *Thackeray's Centenary*, *The Poetry of the Cavaliers* and *Milton's Tercentenary*. His manner is full of the charm that attaches to the distillations of a rich life made richer by scholarship and intellectual achievement.

THE GREY ROOM. By Eden Phillpotts. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1921. Pp. 266.

The day of the mystery story does not seem to wane. When a really able author like Eden Phillpotts decides to try his hand at the *genre*, the result, if disappointing when compared with his seriously artistic work, is much superior to the outworn devices and mechanisms of the conventional 'thriller'. Mr. Phillpotts puts a good deal of human life and character into this story, and employs a plot which, however fantastic, is horrible enough for the most insatiable taste in this kind, and which he takes pains to make seem satisfactorily plausible.